

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 062372

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062372

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)

SUBJECT: VP VISIT: ISSUES

1. THE VP VISIT TO SEASIA AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND WILL DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S. ATTACHES TO THAT AREA OF THE WORLD AND TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL NATIONS. WE EXPECT TRIP WILL HAVE SEVERAL THEMES OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE--PRIMARILY FOOD AND ENERGY (ESPECIALLY DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES), BUT ALSO INTERDEPENDENCE BASED ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT. WE WILL WISH HIS PUBLIC ACTIVITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO A PERCEPTION OF THOSE THEMES. IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BILATERAL ISSUES WILL BE DISCUSSED. THE FOLLOWING PARAS PRESENT OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS (INCLUDING ANY TOPICS WE MAY OVERLOOK) SOONEST. WE MUST, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 062372

BE SELECTIVE BEARING IN MIND LIMITED TIME FOR VISIT AND DISCUSSIONS. WE HAVE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT VISIT BE ACCCOMPANIED BY PRES LETTER HOPEFULLY RESOLVING PM INVITATION QUESTION.

2. US.S POSTURE IN ASIA. WE EXPECT VP WILL REASSURE RTG OF OUR INTENTION TO REMAIN AN ASIAN AND PACIFIC POWER AND

WILL REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THAILAND UNDER THE MANILA

PACT (WHILE DOWNPLAYING RUSK-TANAT). WE WILL SEEK OVER-LAY MANILA PACT WITH BROADER INTERPRETATION OF SECURITY, IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPHASIS "SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP" RATHER THAN "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP". VP WILL ALSO PROBABLY WISH TO COMMENT FAVORABLY ON THAI POLICY TOWARDS NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH INDOCHINA AND INCREAS-ING REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ASEAN FRAMEWORK.

3. NARCOTICS CONTROL. THE VP WOULD STRESS THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL, OUR APPRECIATION OF THAI EFFORTS AND OUR INTENT TO CONTINUE AND INCREASE OUR EFFECTIVE COOPERATION. WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A SPECIFIC OFFER OF ADDITIONAL USG ASSISTANCE DESIGNED TO SERVE AS A CATALYST IN ACCELERATING THE THAI HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENT EFFORT IN THE MAE CHAEM WATERSHED (POSSIBLY A PLEDGE OF DEPT (S/NM) FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION IN ONE OR TWO VILLAGES IN THE WATERSHED AND/OR LONGER TERM PROMISES OF AID ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF AID'S PLANNED FY 79 ASSISTANCE FOR HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENT. WOULD APPRECIATE SPECIFIC EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS ON THAT POSSIBIL-ITY.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS AND REFUGEES. THE VP WILL REAFFIRM USG INTEREST IN FINDING A COOPERATIVE SOLUTION TO THE REFUGEE
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PAGE 03 STATE 062372

PROBLEM. (VISIT TO BARNES REFUGEE OFFICE WOULD DEMONSTRATE THIS TO THAI AS WELL AS US PUBLIC.) TO ENCOURAGE THE THAI TO START PLANNING FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT ("SELF-RELIANCE") OF LAOTIAN REFUGEES THE VP COULD POSSIBLY OFFER EXPLICITY SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE (POSSIBLY A STATEMENT OF OUR SUPPORT FOR AN EXPANDED LAND SETTLEMENT PROJECT FOR LANDLESS THAI IF EACH SETTLEMENT WERE TO INCLDE A FIXED PERCENTAGE OF REFUGEES). HE WOULD ALSO REAFFIRM US INTENT TO CONTINUE ACCEPTING REFUGEES.
SUGGESTIONS WELCOMED.

5. FOOD. WITHIN THE FOOD TOPIC, THE VP MAY ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE THE THAI TO INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTION OF RICE AND THUS JOIN WITH U.S., AUSTRALIA AND OTHERS IN MAJOR EFFORT MEET REGIONAL FOOD NEEDS. WE KNOW THAIS HAVE NOT BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC IN PAST; HAVE CONDITIONS CHANGED-- PARTICULARLY IN VIEW SEASIAN DROUGHT?

6. ENERGY. AN OFFER OF SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH INTO DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES COULD BE MADE, INCLUDING AN OFFER FOR AN ASEAN ALT ENERGY SURVEY.

7. ISSUES THE THAI MAY RAISE. WE EXPECT RTG WILL SEEK
REAFFIRMATION OF MANILA PACT COMMITMENT AND A STATEMENT

OF OUT INTENT TO REMAIN A POWER IN THE REGION. RTG WILL
PROBABLY ALSO SEEK INCREASED U.S. SUPPORT IN TAKING REFU-
GEES FOR RESETTLEMENT AND IN GETTING OTHERS TO TAKE MORE
REFUGEES. THEY MAY ALSO REQUEST INCREASED U.S. SUPPORT
FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL. THE QUESTION OF CONTINUED ARMS
SALES MAY WELL ARISE, WITH THE THAI SEEKING A COMMITMENT
THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEE THEM REQUIRED MILITARY
HARDWARE (AND POSSIBLY INCREASE THE LEVEL OF FMS
FINANCING).

8. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMBASSY COMMENTS AND
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PAGE 04 STATE 062372

SUGGESTIONS ON THESE AND OTHER POSSIBLE ISSUES WHICH
MIGHT BE DISCUSSED. PROPOSED TOPICS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT
BE OUTLINED SPECIFICALLY TO RTG AT THIS TIME, BUT THEIR
VIEWS ON SUITABLE TOPICS MAY BE ELICITED.

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